Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 25 Number 8 *September 2008*

Tecate Mexico Servant Event

By Suzy Cook, meamber of Bethany Lutheran Church, Bainbridge Island

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Sixteen youth and four adults from Bethany Lutheran on Bainbridge Island traveled to Tecate, Mexico, to work on two houses. We were the 5th group in the 5th week of the 2008 Tecate Mission Project. Each week of the project groups from various Lutheran churches, complete a portion of the building of both houses, working "from the ground up." Our portion of the work included sanding, priming, painting, stucco, tiling, cabinetry and final wiring. The week concluded with a fiesta and handing over the keys of the houses to the new homeowners

In order to qualify for the project, families must own their lot in Tecate and agree to participate in the building of theirs as well as other houses in the community.

One family this year had three children, ages 1, 2, and 5. They had all been sleeping together in a plywood room with no windows. The other family also had three children, ages 15, 17, and 19. They had been waiting for seven years to acquire their lot so that their house could be built. To date, 21 houses have been completed through this project during the last ten years.

The youth gained confidence in building skills while providing a critical service to

continued on page 8

Discernment Retreat

Do you know someone who is discerning the call to rostered service in the ELCA?

A Discernment Retreat has been schedule for Friday, Oct 24, through Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way

The retreat begins at 7 p.m. on Friday and concludes at 1 p.m. on Sunday. All meals, lodging and retreat costs are included in the $165 fee. Home congregations are encouraged to cover at least half the registration fee. Registration forms and promotional material will follow.

Please share this retreat resource with those adults who are discerning the call to rostered service in the ELCA.

For more information, contact the Rev. Shelley Wickstrom, Coordinator for Ministry Leadership, Region 1, at 206-624-0093 ext. 109, or email at srwickstrom@yahoo.com.

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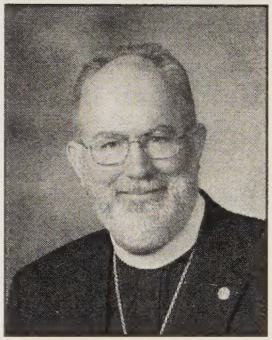
Deadline for the October 2008 issue of Soundings *and* The Spirit *is Wednesday, September 3. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.*

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings *and* The Spirit. *Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org/News&Info.*

A Word From The Bishop



The Reverend
Wm Chris Boerger

For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us....
Acts 15:28 NRSV

May I be so bold as to suggest this is the first resolution adopted by an Assembly of God's people after the day of Pentecost. These are the opening words of the report that Paul and Barnabus are to take to the church in Antioch in response to the question of whether circumcision was to be required of Gentile Christians. Those of us who are students of assemblies and how church's make decision might wish that we had a transcript of the debate around this issue to guide us as we make decisions about what the Holy Spirit is guiding us to do today.

Our most recent Synod Assembly had its highs and its lows. I am getting a consistent message that we are not going to resolve our differences by voting on them. Our synod has been voting on issues related to homosexuality for almost a decade. The issues still remain. How will we discern the will of the Spirit? I am increasingly convinced that it will not be by resolution and vote.

We have an abundance of talent and resources in this synod. We also have an abundance of mission opportunities before us. We live in the mission field. We live in a community with great ethnic and racial diversity. We live in an ever increasing disparity between the very rich and the very poor. In this place we are called to be stewards of God's creation and to respond to the world with God's will, God's grace and God's compassion.

I have proposed to next year's assembly planning task force and the synod council that we change the format of the assembly. Let's address the business issues on Friday and then use Saturday to be in education, discussion and enrichment around issues and opportunities related to congregational ministry. It will mean changing the way we do business. We may not have time for every resolution so there will need to be a prioritization of resolutions or some other creative solution.

Voting will not settle the issues that divide us. It will only further identify the division. I am proposing that we pray about how we can discern the will of the Holy Spirit and then begin to act together on it. Let's talk about that.

Editor's Note: The 2009 Northwest Washington Synod will be held Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16, at the Lynnwood Convention Center. Kim Unti and Pam Kluth are co-chairs. You can reach them at synodassembly@lutheransnw.org.

Quick Reminders

Global Mission Gatherings

Ken Halvorson, Chair
NW Washington Synod
Global Mission Committee
halvorson7@verizon.net

The Synod's Global Mission Committee has schedule two gatherings with congregational based Global Mission Advocates.

- Saturday, August 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church, 2529 N. Laventure Rd, Mount Vernon.
- Saturday, September 13, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 10021 NE 124th, Kirkland.

Health and Hope Grant Proposals

Wheat Ridge Ministries invites and encourages Lutheran congregations to submit applications from Monday, Sept. 1, 2008 through Friday, Oct. 31, 2008 for its Congregation Health and Hope Grant program. For detailed information and to download a complete list of guidelines as well as a proposal format visit www.wheatridge.org. For questions, contact 1-800-762-6748.

Send Us Names

Pastor Scott Postlewait and Pastor Chris Berry, Lutheran Campus Ministry, would like you to please refer **all** college bound students, even if they are not attending the UW or Western. You can access a form at http://uwcrossroads.com/referral.pdf and the send the information to: Rev. Scott Postlewait, UW Lutheran Campus Ministry, 4525 19th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105; email to chscott@drizzle.com.

Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality

The Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality released the *Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality* on March 13 for study and response. Responses to the draft social statement are due by Nov. 1, 2008.

Our synod will host a joint hearing with Southwestern Washington Synod on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Grace Lutheran in Des Moines. At least one representative of the task force is to attend each hearing. You are also encouraged to submit your responses directly to the task force. (http://archive.elca.org/cgi-bin/rws/rws3.pl?FORM=ResponseForm.)

Based on the responses from the church, the task force will revise and prepare a proposed social statement, which is due in early 2009. The proposed social statement will be given to the ELCA Church Council for its consideration and with a request to place the document on the agenda of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly for action. For more information about the call to study and dialogue about human sexuality visit www.elca.org/faithfuljourney.

Guest From Nigeria Waded Through Immigration Issues

Editor's Note: This is an article taken from a July 15 ELCA press release. To see the press release in its entirety visit http://archive.elca.org/ScriptLib/CO/ELCA_News/encArticleList.asp?article=3920

Azur Riki was one of several international guests invited to the Women of the ELCA Seventh Triennial Gathering in Salt Lake City, Utah. But getting to Salt Lake was an endurance test for Riki, who worked through the complexities of the U.S. immigration system, made even more complex because she is living with HIV.

Riki, a member of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, lives in Jos, Nigeria. She arrived on July 12 after she was granted a visa by the U.S. embassy in Abuja, Nigeria. Riki had traveled to the U.S. embassy three times to get a visa beginning with her first visit June 18, and was denied each time, she said in an interview with the ELCA News Service. She was notified on July 10 that her visa was granted, after she and others thought her visa request would not be approved. ELCA staff helped arrange her trip to the United States.

Riki is a widow with two children, ages 5 and 11. Her husband was HIV positive and died in 2002. She is supporting herself and her family today, thanks to the programs of the Mashiah Foundation, Jos. The foundation operates a holistic HIV/AIDS education, prevention, testing, counseling and health program ministry, including the Women of Hope Program, which serves 140 women who are HIV-positive. The foundation is supported by gifts from ELCA congregations and through ELCA Global Mission

The Mashiah Foundation receives funds from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a program initiated under US President George W. Bush. The ELCA supports PEPFAR, which must be reauthorized this year.

People living with HIV, such as Riki, can be considered for certain types of visas to enter the US, but the process is laborious and complicated, said Kim Stietz, director for international policy, ELCA Washington Office. In Riki's case, she traveled to Lagos, a 12-hour journey...but was denied an entry visa. That is until staff of the US State Department apparently intervened, following efforts by ELCA staff and others working on Riki's behalf.

"The irony is that individuals like Riki are literally alive because of the AIDS treatment they received through PEPFAR, yet they're being denied the opportunity to tell Americans how good the program is because they're HIV positive," Stietz said. "There's no public health justification for placing travel restrictions on HIV positive people."

"I'm really happy to get myself here," Riki said. "I never dreamed I would be in this country. It's not easy for a woman living with HIV. But I thank God because of the Mashiah Foundation...(and) for PEPFAR..."

Order Form

Bible Book of Faith Resource Book

Editor's Note:
Please copy this page or remove it from the newsletter and mail it to: Roger Anderson , 911 9th Street, Mukilteo. WA 98275. Thank you.

The Lay Theological Education Task Force is offering all congregations in the Northwest Washington Synod resources promoting use and knowledge of the Bible. These Augsburg Fortress resources complement the Book of Faith Initiative and are available at no cost to you. We only ask that your congregation agree to participate in the Bible Book of Faith Initiative. It is understood that by placing this order, your congregation agrees to participate in the Bible Book of Faith initiative. (For more information read the resolution passed at the recent synod assembly at www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2008/assembly/J.pdf; or visit www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/The-Bible/Book-of-Faith.aspx.)

Name of Congregation_____
Location of Congregation_____
Phone_____ E-mail_____
Leader or Contact Person_____
Address_____
Phone_____ E-mail_____

Please indicate which of these titles are needed in your congregation:

___John Drane—*Introducing the Bible* (with CD)

___Don Benjamin—*The Old Testament Story: An Introduction* (with CD)

___Gerd Theissen—*Fortress Introduction to the New Testament*

___Terrance E. Fretheim—*About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions*

___Craig R. Koester—*Beginner's Guide to Reading the Bible*

___Rolf E. Aaseng—*A Beginner's Guide to Studying the Bible*

___Diane L. Jacobson & Robt. Kysar—*A Beginner's Guide to the Book of Books*

___Gerd Theissen—*The Bible and Contemporary Culture*

The hope is that all churches in the Northwest Washington Synod will use and make available these resources in their congregations. To order, please return this form by Tuesday, Sept. 30, to Roger Anderson, 911 9th St. Mukilteo, WA 98275. For questions email rwander48@comcast.net

Men Meet The Challenge

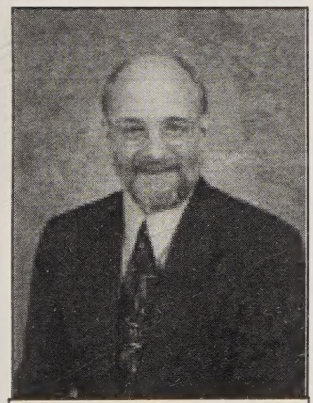
Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM), the men's ministry of the ELCA, announced it had exceeded a financial goal to raise $500,000 in cash and $500,000 in deferred gifts for the LMM Endowment Fund.

More than $1.5 million has been raised, said Doug Haugen, LMM director, Chicago. The endowment fund was created to help LMM become a financially self-supporting ministry.

About 600 men attended the 2008 Lutheran Men's Gathering in Omaha, Nebraska. The event theme, *Coming of Age,* focused on LMM's 20th anniversary, its new relationship with the ELCA and its emphasis on the spirituality of men ages 18-34.

Information about LMM is at www.ELCA.org/lmm. Our synod's LMM contact is Ron Sailer, synod council member. For more information contact him at rksailer@gmail.com, telephone 206-529-4569 or 360-658-0461, or visit http://ourmim.org.

Giving to God: The Bible's Good News About Living a Generous Life



Mark Allan Powell

The 2008 Fall Stewardship event features Mark Allan Powell, Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. This year's theme is: *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News About Living a Generous Life.* Mark will present two sessions during the event. His topics --"Cheerful Sacrifices" and "Duty & Delight" -- will engage the audience in discussion centered on stewardship as an expression of faith.

The event will take place from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood. Cost is $20 per person (includes lunch) and the 4th member of your congregation free. Registration deadline is Monday, September 15. To register, please visit the Calendar on the Synod's website (brochure with registration information is linked) or contact Janet Nelson at jnelson125@hotmail.com, or call at 206.624.0093 x103

Stewardship is not just a way of life; it's a good way of life. In fact, for many, it is a way to a better life...The Bible contains a great many promises regarding stewardship of time, talents and treasure, promises designed to inspire our confidence rather than arouse our guilt. ...We are in a relationship with a God who loves us, guides us, guards us, and blesses us.

continued from page 1

Tecate Mission Trip

This photo shows the Tecate Mission Trip including students and chaperones. Pastor Andrew Yee is pictured in the back row second from the right.

the Tecate community. They learned a lot about themselves and about others. They experienced life changing examples of God's love and acceptance through work and play with the members of this community while building a working community of their own. They worked hard all day then feasted on dinner prepared by the Mexican families. This was followed by play with the youth in Tecate.

Here are some quotes from some participants at the end of the week when asked about their favorite part of the trip:

- "Handing over the keys, seeing how happy the families were to not have to move around anymore"
- "Seeing how easy it is communicate without speaking the same language"
- "Finding common ground with other kids my own age through soccer"
- "The kids find joy in the smallest things, they are all so happy"
- "Through play the kids really opened up, they were so happy"
- "Working alongside the teenage girls who were getting one of the houses"
- "Getting to know our youth group better by working and playing together"
- "Knowing the parents could feel safer raising their children with doors and windows and running water in their houses"
- "We have to go back next year!"

Leadership Conference

The third annual NWWA Synod Leadership Conference is packed with useful skills to help leaders influence the health of their congregations. This year's theme is: *Mature Leaders Create a Healthier Church.* The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, August 27, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood.

Rev. Valinda Morse, Assistant to the Bishop, Southwestern Washington Synod, and Rev. Dr. John Beck will present the information using a systems model. Come for worship, learning and laughter--great snacks and door prizes. Paid and volunteer staff are invited to attend. Conference fee is now $45/ person (price increased after August 1). To register call Karen Dicken at 425-823-2727.

State Advocate's Corner

by the Rev. Paul Benz

Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State

pbenz@lcsnw.org
www.lppowa.org
206-464-4133

Greetings advocates. It is that time of year to become familiar with issues and to vote. This is all a part of what is called *faithful citizenship*; a part of our baptismal vocation. In Washington state LPPO is a resource and voice on these critical issues of governance. Here are some important points to remember as you consider your part in the upcoming election:

- The ELCA has an excellent resource entitled *Called to be a Public Church* available at the LPPO office or online at www.elca.org/advocacy. This is the ELCA voting and civic participation guide.
- The ELCA has issued a letter to both presidential candidates highlighting some of the critical issues we believe should be addressed. Check the above ELCA website or a copy can be obtained from the LPPO office.
- LPPO is planning 2-3 forums for the candidates in the Seattle area and has 5-6 advocacy forum weekends planned throughout the state.
- LPPO has a *faithful citizenship* bulletin insert available on our website (www.lppowa.org) that can be used in worship bulletins and has ideas for voter registration by groups in a congregation and voter education forums.

The initiatives for the November ballot are: 1) I-1000; LPPO council decided not to take a position on this intiative, but encourages congregations to use the ELCA's message called *End of Life Decisions* as part of their fall adult forum classes. 2) I-1029; called *Safe, Quality Care for Seniors* is an issue that LPPO supported when this was before the state legislature. 3) I-985; from Tim Eyman regarding transportation, specifically opening up the HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lanes. LPPO is not taking a position. Visit the Secretary of State's web site at www.secstate.wa.gov. LPPO will have more detailed information in the October issue of Soundings and on its website in September.

Update

Board of Pensions

- **2009 ELCA contribution rates to be released**—A 5 percent ELCA health plan rate increase for 2009 was approved by our board of trustees Aug. 2. Our online contribution rate charts and calculators will be updated to reflect the new rates by the end of August (www.elcabop.org/Home/Calculators/Co https://ntributionAmounts.aspx). Additionally, you will receive a printed copy of your rate chart in September.

- **403(b) Regulations are changing**—The IRS is making 403(b) plans more consistent with other defined contribution plans such as 401(k) plans and, as a result, has changed the 403(b) regulations. The new regulations, effective Jan. 1, 2009, will require greater fiduciary responsibility on the part of employers who offer 403(b) plans. You are affected if you participate in an ELCA retirement plan because ELCA retirement plans are church 403(b)(9) retirement income account plans. You can learn more at https://www.elcabop.org/Home/BenefitsAdmin/403bRegs.aspx. Board of Pensions will be sending out letters this month detailing the changes.

- **Financial well-being added to the Wholeness Wheel**—The introduction of financial well-being emphasizes the importance stewardship has on well-being — not just of your physical resources but also your financial resources, and encourages an exploration of what financial well-being means in our own lives.In the coming months, you and your employees will see more about financial well-being and have opportunities to learn more about living well in this important aspect of your life. View the new https://www.elcabop.org/LiveWell/Wholenesswheel.aspx.

- **Need help understanding your role as benefits sponsor?**—As the benefits administrator for your congregation or organization, the pastors, rostered laypersons or lay employees you sponsor in the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program rely on you to help them navigate their ELCA benefits. To learn about your role, visit https://www.elcabop.org/BenefitsAdmin/How_to_be_benefits_administrator.aspx. This section of our web site contains useful links to information, tips and steps to take to help you learn what you need to know and do when sponsoring a pastor, rostered layperson or lay employee in the ELCA benefits program.

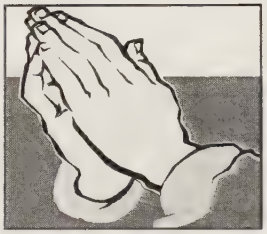
News and Notes

- Mark your calendars for 2011. **Women of the ELCA's Eighth Triennial Gathering** will be held July 14-17, 2011, in Spokane, Wash.
- **Prince of Peace Lutheran in Shoreline** is hosting Tent City 3 for 90 days. Tent City arrived on June 29. The congregation has received phone calls from individuals and organizations asking how they can help.

  Busy members...Prince of Peace in Shoreline is again taking a turn to work the WSDOT Rest Area at Smokey Point South from August 22 through August 25. This is an annual fundraiser for the congregation.
- ***After the Chase,*** a Christian band from California, will lead worship at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran, Maple Valley, morning services and perform an evening concert. This will take place on Sunday, August 31. The evening concert begins at 6:30 p.m. You can learn more about the music at www.afterthecase.com. Childcare will be available. A freewill offering will be taken.
- Faith Lutheran in Bellingham celebrated about 40 years of ordained for the Rev. Dick Christensen. The celebration took place on July 13 with the Rev. Kirby Unti, St. Matthew's in Renton, preaching. Pastor Dick was ordained on July 14, 1968, at St. John Lutheran in Norfolk, Nebraska.
- Craig Rennebohm, nationally known for his pioneering work with the homeless mentally ill community and founder of Mental Health Chaplaincy, will host a **Companionship training workshop at Prince of Peace in Shoreline** from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 27. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. The cost of the workshop is a freewill offering on the day of the event.

  This event is geared to professionals, clergy, staff and laypeople in congregations who are developing ministries to welcome, serve and support individuals and their families facing the journey with serious and persistent mental disorders. Please RSVP to the church office at 206-363-8100.
- **Peace Lutheran in West Seattle** recently became a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The congregation held a special meeting in June where members adopted an Affirmation of Welcome developed by the Intentional Inclusion Task Force.
- **The congregation of Morning Star Lutheran in Monroe** participates in serving brown bag lunches to the needy in the Sky Valley Area through the Brown Bag Brigade (BBB). Since its inception in March 2007, BBB has served more than 9,000 lunches, delivering 150 lunches each week to local organizations.

Within Our Family



To Keep In Our Prayers...

Within Our Family depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, 1-800-244-6997 (toll free). This newsletter is shared among many people. The synod tries to limit personal information on the prayer list. Please consider contacting those on this list to let them know that you are holding them in your prayers.

We continue to hold in our prayers:

† **Paul Anderson, Associate in Ministry**
† **Howard Boerger, father of Bishop Chris Boerger**
† **The Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita**
† **Pastor Mikkel Hustand, St. Peter Lutheran in Clinton**
† **Paula Ingebritson, wife of Pastor Joel Ingebritson**
† **Dick Lee, husband of Erma Lee, Associate in Ministry (ret.)**
† **Arlett Nordsletten, widow of Pastor Olin Nordsletten**
† **The Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Malcolm Unseth (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Dick Wendt (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

We pray for:

† **The Rev. Dr. Walter Pilgrim,** long-time professor of Religion at PLU, is suffering from an incurable neurological illness and is in a great deal of pain and distress. Prayers for comfort and peace for Walter and his wife, Jeanette, are requested. Cards may be sent to: Walter and Jeanette Pilgrim, 2410 Western Road, Steilacoom, WA 98388-1300

† **The Rev. Norman Orth (ret.)** is now in the Care Center at Tacoma Lutheran Home, recovering nicely. Please continue prayers for his healing.

† **Jenny Allert (wife of the Rev. Eric J. Allert, Spirit of Life, Port Orchard)**. She has a tumor in her head near the right ear and had a medical procedure on July 28. This is a reoccurrence of a similar tumor that developed five years ago. Prayers for comfort, healing, and skilled medical treatments blessed by our merciful Lord are well appreciated. Cards may be sent to the church at: 3901 SE Mullenix Road, Port Orchard, WA 98367.

† **The Rev. Eduardo A Cabrera, El Camino de Emaus in Burlington,** left for Guatemala on July 28 because his brother, Mario Cabrera, passed away as a consequence of a stroke. Cards may be sent to: El Camino De Emaus, PO Box 690, Burlington, WA 98233-0161.

† **The Rev. Theol S. Hoiland (ret.)** died Sunday, August 3, at Tacoma Lutheran Home. Less than two weeks ago, Theol was diagnosed with liver cancer. Theol and Anna, his wife of almost 61 years, were able to share a room in skilled nursing at Tacoma Lutheran Home. Theol was 84 years old. The family is thankful for the gift of his life and love and entrust him to the care of his loving and merciful savior, Jesus Christ.

continued on page 13

The Spirit

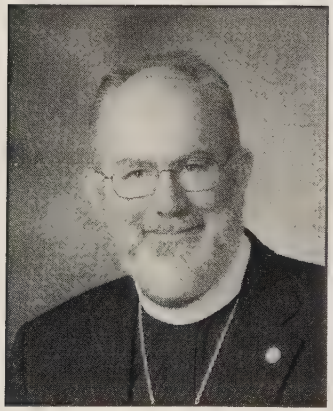
News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 25, Number 8

September 2008

God Connected To The Created World

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



Every summer for the past 21 years I have gone to Camp Lutherwood, Bellingham, for confirmation camp. It was an important part of the relationship building between pastor and student that I see to be essential to the confirmation program. It also gave us time to look at issues or topics that are better done in a camp setting than in a congregational classroom.

Each year I would lead the students through a guided meditation process. This involved relaxation and then a story being read while the

environmental stewardship I want to make sure we remember that we are here to serve and protect the ***wow*** of God's creative work. The world around us is to be seen and used as if God is emotionally connected to it and to us. Our God does display emotion. From the ***wow*** of creation to weeping over Jerusalem, God is connected to the created world.

As those who are created in the image of God, we need to reflect that connection to the creation. The air, water, soil and all of their creatures are what have been created by God and are our responsibility to protect and sustain. This is not just a political or scientific issue. It is why we were created.

As a creature in this created order I am called to see my connection with all that exists. To borrow from the Rev. Mark Hanson,presiding bishop of the ELCA, we are

Tecate Mexico Servant Event

By Bethany Lutheran Church, Bainbridge Island

Sixteen youth and four adults from Bethany Lutheran on Bainbridge Island traveled to Tecate, Mexico, to work on two houses. We were the 5th group in the 5th week of the 2008 Tecate Mission Project. Each week of the project, groups from various Lutheran churches, complete a portion of the building of both houses, working "from the ground up." Our portion of the work included sanding, priming, painting, stucco, tiling, cabinetry and final wiring. The week concluded with a fiesta and handing over the keys of the houses to the new homeowners

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One family this year had three children, ages 1, 2, and 5. They had all been sleeping together in a plywood room with no windows. The other family also had three children, ages 15, 17, and 19. They had been waiting for seven years to acquire their lot so that their house could be built. To date, 21 houses have been completed through this project during the last ten years.

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† "Through play the kids really opened up, they were so happy"
† "Knowing the parents could feel safer raising their children with doors and windows and running water in their houses"
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† "Handing over the keys, seeing how happy the families were to not have to move around anymore"

† "Seeing how easy it is communicate without speaking the same language"

of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy ***The Spirit*** and include it in their own newsletters. ***The Spirit*** can be downloaded from the Synod website.

Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA
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Information for the October 2008 issue of *The Spirit* is due to the Synod Office by Wednesday, September 3.

day God said, it happened and God declared it ***good.*** It is that Hebrew word for good that gets my attention these days. That word has an emotional quality to it. I am led to believe that a better translation of that word would be ***wow***. God gets excited by what has been created.

As we deal with issues of global warming and from the sin of seeing ourselves as rulers of creation and not parts of God's good cosmos. This is an issue that we will need to address in our congregations, our homes and our political life. The sound of God's ***wow*** should be ringing in our ears as we make all of these decisions. ***Wow***, indeed.

Cheerful Sacrifices

The 2008 Fall Stewardship event features Mark Allan Powell, Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. This year's theme is: *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News About Living a Generous Life.* The event will take place from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood. Cost is $20 per person (includes lunch) and the 4th member of your congregation free. Registration deadline is Monday, September 15. To register, please visit the Calendar on the Synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org, or contact Janet Nelson at jnelson125@hotmail.com, or call at 206.624.0093 x103

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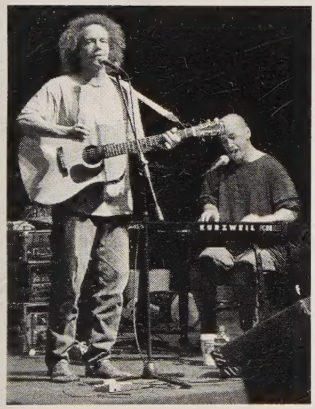
Within Our Family

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, August 11 at St. Mark's by the Narrows Lutheran Church in Tacoma. Anna Hoiland lives at Tacoma Lutheran Home. Her address is:1301 N. Highlands Parkway # 237, Tacoma, WA 98406-2171. His daughter, Ann, and her husband's, Larry Thomas, address is 170 5th Ave. NE, Issaquah, WA 98027, email annlthomas@gmail.com Thanks for your friendship and prayers. Peace to his memory.

Lost and Found In Concert



The band *Lost and Found* will be Our Savior's Lutheran in Everett on Saturday, Aug. 16. A BBQ will be held at 6 p.m. with the concert beginning at 7 p.m. The worship band from the Church of the Beloved will be opening for Lost and Found that night.

This concert is free. (A free will offering of $10 is suggested.) The concert is sponsored by the Snohomish Cluster, with help from Thrivent. Pastor Kari Reiten, Faith Lutheran in Everett, has tickets. You can contact her at 425-353-4758 or email at reitenkari@yahoo.com. You can find out more about the band at http://speedwood.com.

Let Justice Roll

Let Justice Roll will be held Saturday, Oct. 11 through Monday, Oct. 13, at Holden Village. This year's theme is: *Practicing our Faith in the Salmon Nation.*

Using this theme at the *Let Justice Roll* event will provide presentations sparking lively conversations around the practices of sustainability, relationships and creation. Sustainability is meant in this context to include relationships between the environment, communities, businesses, people, friends, neighbors and healthy care of self.

This annual event is intended to reach high school students interested in social, economic, political, and environmental justice issues. Its unique focus is meant to feed, support, and stimulate those young people who have a special interest in the issues of peace, justice, and care of creation. Because of the fall date, space is limited, so we encourage you to limit your group to no more that 5 participants.

Sponsored by Trinity Lutheran College, Holden Village, Lutheran Peace Fellowship, Lutheran Public Policy Office and Earth Ministry.

Fall Bishop Convo

The Northwest Washington Synod Bishop's Convocation will be held Sunday, Oct. 19, through Tuesday, Oct 21, at Harrison Hot Springs Resort and Spa in British Columbia.

This year's speaker is the Reverend Doctor Barbara Rossing from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC). She is the professor of New Testament. Ordained in 1982, she served as pastor of a congregation in Minnesota, director for Global Mission Interpretation for the American Lutheran Church, pastor at Holden Village Retreat Center, Chelan and chaplain at Harvard University Divinity School.

Rossing is the author of: *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation* (Basic Books, 2004), a critique of fundamentalist "Left Behind" theology; plus many other publications.

Cost is $310 double occupancy; $510 single occupancy; $620 for couples. Registration deadline is September 16, 2008. Remember, a passport is required to return to the U.S.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Jocelyn Carson	Trinity, Everett	8/10/2008
Abigail d'Ambruoso	Faith, Seattle	9/4/2008
Kemp Segerhammar	Sierra Pacific Synod	7/1/2008
Daniel Sorensen	Prince of Peace, Seatac	9/7/2008
Installations		
Jocelyn Carson	Trinity, Everett	9/21/2008
Daniel Sorensen	Prince of Peace, SeaTac	9/21/2008
Ordinations/Commissionings/Consecrations		
Abigail, d'Ambruoso	Trinity Lutheran Church, Oakland, CA	8/23/2008
Daniel Sorensen	Holy Trinity Lutheran, Chicago	8/9/2008
Retirements		
Carl Gabrielson	Our Saviour, Arlington	7/1/2008
Randy Grauer	Christ the Servant, Bellingham	10/1/2008
Mark Johnson	First Evangelical, Mount Vernon	9/1/2008
Estelle Morley, Assoicate in Ministry	Luther Memorial, Seattle	10/1/2008
Lowell Stime	Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah	8/1/2008
Transfers In/Out of Synod		
Kemp Segerhammar	Sierra Pacific Synod	7/1/2008
Closings		
Crown, Seattle		7/20/2008

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

Transitions can be found on page 9

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	pr	TR	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Bainbridge Island, Bethany	PR	TR	Andrew Yee, Co-Pastor; Dennis Schaffert, Interim Co-Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	TR	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Edmonds, Edmonds	A	P	Michael Ross, Pastor;
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Mitch Watney, Supply
Everson, Immanuel	PR	TR	Mary Bosell, Interim
Marysville, Bethlehem	PR	I	Interim Pending
Mercer Island, Holy Trinity	PR	I	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Mount Vernon, Firs Evangelical	PR	NV	Jennifer Schultz, Associate Pastor; Interim Pending
Mount Vernon, Salem	A/SP	TR	Kevin Forquer, Pastor
North Bend, Mount Si	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Seattle, Crown	PR	TR	Dan Selmann, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atick, Interim
Seattle, Luther Memorial	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

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